

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:EWLOLLIS/MPH

APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH

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R 170628Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, BGEN, CPRS, NI

SUBJECT: WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TENNIS TOURNAMENT IN LAGOS

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED BY ORGANIZERS OF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TENNIS (A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION) THAT ASH, OCKER, AND FOURTEEN OTHER PROFESSIONAL TENNIS PLAYERS OF INTERNATIONAL STANDING (TEN OF WHOM ARE AMCITS) ARE SCHEDULED PLAY IN A TOURNAMENT ORGANIZED BY THE LAGOS LAWN TENNIS CLUB FEBRUARY 9 - 15. WCT UNDERSTANDS MATCHES WILL BE HELD AT THE LLTC IN A NEW 7,000-SEAT STADIUM. (PRESUMABLY THIS MEANS THE NEW STANDS AT THE TAFAWA BALEWA SQUARE PARADE GROUND ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE LLTC.)

2. WCT IS CONCERNED THAT RECURRENCE OF LAST WEEK'S ANTI-AMERICAN PUBLICITY AND STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS COULD CAUSE SECURITY PROBLEM AT THE MATCHES OR FOR THE PROMINENT AMERICANS WHILE THEY ARE IN LAGOS. DEPARTMENT HAS ADVISED WCT TO PROCEED AS PLANNED BUT TO KEEP IN CONTACT WITH DEPARTMENT AND LATER WITH EMBASSY IN CASE CIRCUMSTANCES

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CHANGE.

3. FYI, WCT CONTACTS HAVE BEEN WITH LLTC CHAIRMAN ALABE
AND PARTICULARLY WITH TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR FAJOBE. END FYI.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENT ON
FOREGOING.

KISSINGER

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